The Brethren Evangelist

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ASHLAND, Ohio, Feb. 27, 1889.

The Brood of Vipers.

In the lesson next Lord's Day this language occurs:

'Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him also shall the Son of Man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.' Mark viii, 38.

Often serious mistakes are made in not assigning to the *generation* so frequently used in the Bible, the importance that belongs to it. This word is often used to designate that class of green-hearted, hypocritical creatures who are acting as the first agents of hell and satan, who want mankind to bow to them and pay homage, while their hearts are full of the vilest corruption. They polish up the exteriour and appear beautiful to men, and their hearts are burrowed hollow by the worms of spiritual rottenness. This class of creatures are known and found in the ranks of the religious aristocracy of all lands. They have been busy prying around ever since the first ring of the gospel trumpet was sent out. They surrounded John the Baptist, and purposed in their hearts to steal his work out of his hands. But he gave them a few strokes of his wonderful speech and they went wriggling away with stinging in their souls. He shouted out at them, 'O brood of vipers, who hath warned you?'

Christ spoke of this brood when he said, 'This generation shall not pass until all these things be fulfilled.' A mark of their char acter is given in Matt. xii, 34. 'O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things.' Yes, how can they? Where is the religious aristocracy that speaks good or does good in any practical way for men?

Again in Matt. xxiii: 33: 'Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell? also, xxiv, 34: 'Verily I say unto you, this generation shall not pass away, till all these things be fulfilled. *Genea* is used in the Greek, for generation in this passage, and also in the verse from the S. S. lesson quoted above. The context favors the conclusion that it is the sinful generation that shall not pass away until all those things spoken shall come to pass. It is evident that that class is meant, because the righteous shall endure forever, and he that drinketh of the water that Christ giveth shall never die—pass away.

The evidence at hand is positive proof that the Brood of Vipers still exists. The adulterous and sinful generation has not passed away, and all the things spoken by Christ are not yet fulfilled. Every man who wears the mantle belonging to the warrior of Jesus, will come in contact with the brood of vipers, and it is then that he will be put to the crucial test. It is then that he will conquer or be vanquished. Take notice how the Christ puts the matter before men. If his followers are ashamed of him and his word, in this adulterous and sinful generation, Christ will be ashamed of them when he comes in the glory of the Father.

Is there any one ashamed of Christ and his word? There were persons ashamed of him when he was here on earth. Even Peter rebuked him when he was telling what shame and disgrace he should pass through before he reached the cross, to lift the burden of sin from fallen man. He would not respect the saying of Christ, and censured him. He did not understand what the generation of vipers meant to do with his Master.

When Christ was on earth, some men were ashamed of him because he was not aristocratic, which means corrupt at heart and polished outside. But he is no more here and it is not so handy to be ashamed of him now. But he has included his words. Among these he has given us the words of the loving institution of washing the feet of the saints. They are the words of Jesus. The ordinance is the symbol of brotherly love and humility. If ye love me keep my commandments—that is, in part, if ye love me wash your brethren's feet, as I commanded you.

Yea, there are many other words of Jesus to obey, but are men ashamed of them? Men are ashamed of the words in the command of washing feet, or ashamed of the performance of the observance, which is the same thing.

Oh for men! Pure men! Clean men, to stand up in the power of Christian bravery, and shout out at the wicked, Oh brood of vipers. Men who will not pare away and sugar-coat the fiery words of the Lord Jesus which are designed to burn off the puss and sloughing of the sin-cursed soul, that the spiritul seed may *grow* therein, assimilate it and build it into a new and *glorious* body in the resurrection of the just.

Is any one ashamed of His words that are directed against the vanity, pride and foolish fashions of this world, which consume the *grace*, virtue, and loveliness of men and women and transform them into beasts of the infernal regions?

Is any one ashamed of His words directed against vile lusts, adultery in the church and out, and intemperance, which are dragging down multitudes into hell?

Is any one ashamed of His words directed against gambling, lotteries, gathering wealth by feeding the vices of other men and enriching themselves on other men's sins?

Is any one ashamed of His words directed against sins in high places and making the temple of God a house of merchandise in frivolous shows, and silly frauds to secure the patronage of the devil, to preach the gospel on?

Must I be carried to the skies
On flowery beds of ease?
No sir.
'Sure I must fight if I would win.'

Yes you must. And do not forget to put on the whole armor, and never be ashamed of Jesus in this adulterous and sinful generation.

Missionary Work in Dayton.

For a number of years our brethren have been working in Dayton and though cramped and harassed in almost every way, they have met with encouraging success. Of late the spirit of inquiry and interest has been such as to encourage them to make a much greater effort. They have rented a large church and invited Bro. Bashor to give them a few weeks' time, when if he consents to go and the arrangements can be perfected, a general effort will be made to give the city a general shaking up in the interest of the cause.

Now the brethren in the city are earnest in the work, big with zeal, but poor in this world's goods, and in order to do the matter justice, pay Bro. Bashor and bear the general expenses should have some assistance. This is the first city of any size, outside of Philadelphia, Johnstown and South Bend, in which we are making any effort to successfully build up, and why not give it the prayers and support of the general church.

Brethren suppose we each contribute a mite to this work. Let each one make this a matter of personal interest and send in a quarter, a half dollar, a dollar, or more to see that the work is thoroughly done and the brethren are not forced too close for want of funds before the work is completed. There are plenty of brethren who, no doubt, would be glad to give something to keep Bro. Bashor there as long as there is hope of success. Bro. Bashor says, 'I am willing to go and labor as long as there is a vestige of hope and will do the very best for Christ and the church, it is in my power to do. But I cannot do so without some compensation. I am willing to sacrifice with others, that our cause may be maintained, but we want the meeting kept up longer than the brethren there are financially able to do. Now what will we do?

The EVANGELIST will start a fund for that purpose. Perhaps the children will help us. Send in whatever you are willing to give and it will be sent for that purpose. Boys, girls send in your dimes and quarters. Brethren send in your half dollars, and dollars. Souls will be saved, perhaps the church there will put on a growing and self supporting basis and in the days to come, we will rejoice over the good result. The EVANGELIST will start this fund. Whatever you give will be accounted for and sent to Dayton to the Brethren for that purpose. This will be our first general missionary effort. Now let us make it a good one.

All give something and give it at once. Then pray God for success. The whole brotherhood praying and helping in this work will bring success. God is for us who can be against us?

No truer and more devoted and spiritual brother than pastor Kiehl can be found anywhere, and we can assure our brethren that if a good work is done in Dayton, that Bro. Kiehl will keep the house in order. We will call this the

DAYTON MISSION FUND.

The BRETHREN EVANGELIST,	$1.00
The Sister's Christian Endeavor, will probably give,	5.00

A Neglected Command.

'But I say unto you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.' Mat. 5:44.

This command was given in the sermon on the mount and is equally binding with others that were given in the same sermon, which have been made binding on the consciences of men and made tests of fellowship.

There is probably no other command in the Bible that obedience generally among men, would result in so much happiness for them in this life.

The one who will faithfully live up to the requirements of that command will be well nigh perfect. The deeds necessary to do so are the seal of perfection, in the judgment of God.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Three or four may oppose you, slander you and persecute you, while a thousand esteem you for the good you do. Do not be turned out of the way on account of the few and crush the feeling of the thousands and lose their esteem.

The Foreigh Mission fund of the Reformed church recently received a gift of $500.00. Such gifts make their influence felt in good works.

Sponging the gospel out of evangelists is an article that can be read with profit. We know it recounts like experience of some of our brethren.

On February 16th, in New York Harbor, Owen Maloney and William Coffey fought on board a ship. They both fell overboard and the former was drowned in the sea. How many there are who are on board the gospel ship, pick a fight of some character with their brethren and all fall overboard, and almost always, one, and sometimes several, are caught by the waves of sin and spiritually drowned. Moral—never fight.

THE WORLD MOVES ON.—Prince Bismarck was a famous man, but now the age of decay is upon him. He has not moved forward to keep at the head of the procession of human advancement and he is now grieved as he is trailing after in the progressive march of his people. It fills his soul with sorrow to feel that he is no longer the great leader of his empire. Human glory has nothing enduring about it. It is always followed with an age of distraction and sorrow and possibly everlasting misery in eternity. Solomon was worth more money than the combined money of all the millionaires of America, and he exclaimed with sorrow in his heart 'all is vanity.' How utterly worthless! everything earthly is.

The wind storm a couple of weeks ago blew a large building down in Pittsburg, Pa., and it ruined two other in the fall. Eighteen persons were caught in the debris, and six or seven died. How very uncertain is life, and how soon the stroke of death may fall upon us.

Men must have divine strength to rebuke sin, a perfect trust in God. Elijah at one time trusted in himself and his heart failed him and he went 'A day's journey into tho wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree; and he requested for himself that he might die, and said, "It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life."' 1 Kings xix., 4.

Cardinal Wolsey, when his end was near at hand regretted that he had not served his God as faithfully as he had his king. O how the deeds of a lifetime crowd before a man in his dying hour. A few moments of approved feeling at that time is worth more to the soul than a lifetime of earthly pleasures and vain joy.

Some of our Christian friends are circulating the report among our brethren near Mulvane, Kan., that the Bashor and Hammond debate, in Ind., a few years ago, was a grand success for single immersion; that fourteen left the Brethren and joined the so-called Christian church, and received single immersion. That Bashor did then acknowledge the single immersion to be the nearest right according to the Scriptures. Will Bro. Bashor please explain through the EVANGELIST for the benefit of some of our brethren near Mulvane.

D. HARADER.

Bro. Bashor authorizes us to say: That the story is a fabrication in every particular. Dr. Hammond was a fairly good debator, but that he defeated me in the discussion was only the illegitimate child of his own fancy, as I was informed again and again by brethren in the community that the universal sentiment of the people was that the Dr. was badly worsted. He felt his defeat so keenly that he wanted to have the debate over. They, (the Disciples) not only did not baptize fourteen of our members over the debate, but did not baptize even one, who had ever held our, or any other way. That I acknowledged single immersion to be legal Christian baptism, either before or after the discussion is an unmitigated falsehood. All this can easily be learned by correspondence with people in the community where the debate was held. We baptized one at close of discussion, they (the Disciples) none. Our people have flourished ever since.

How hard it is for some to realize that there is a devil, and that it will be impossible to escape his shafts while life lasts. We will encounter evil, but it is to be overcome with good.

Akron, Ind.

After closing our meeting at the New Highland Church, and resting one week, the brethren were not satisfied so I held on another week. The result was three more joined in with us, two by baptism and one from the German Baptist, an old brother seventy six years old. We closed on Friday evening the 15th, with a communion, the first communion held in that neighborhood. It was new to the people. Bro. Perry, of North Manchester, was with us four evenings. Bro. Wm. W. Summers dropped in on the evening of our communion. We all rejoiced to have the brethren with us. It was truly a feast of love. Many communed for the first time. We desire ministering brethren to come and preach for us.

N. HEETER.

Feb. 19, 1889.

LITERATURE.

Would you like to be transported to New York City some bright Sunday morning and make a round of the different places of worship, and see just how New Yorkers worship, from the Protestants to the Jews? To get an idea of them all, taking in the Catholics and the Christian Scientists, would require many Sundays; but DEMOREST'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE for March (just received) has simplified matters by bringing 'Religious New York' to us, and illustrating the article so beautifully and profusely that a stranger can get more information from it than could be gained by twenty Sunday visits. Each number of this beautiful family Magazine seems to surpass its predecessor; and now they have started in with a new feature, a corner for Little Ones, and certainly the children will be delighted with 'Young Japan at Play' (handsomely illustrated), for it will not only teach them some new games but show them how the young Japanese play some of their games. Everybody will be interested in 'Snowed Under for Six Months,' by Frederick Schwatka, and the water-color picture and fine engravings; and if our space would permit, we could mention a long series of attractions in this wonderful March number. Be sure and see it.

Published by W. JENNINGS DEMOREST, 15 East 14th Street, New York. Price 20 cents.

On our last page this week will be found a striking and instructive illustration of the comparative worth of the various kinds of baking powders now in the market.

Let quality, not quantity, be the test of a medicine. Ayer's Sarsaparilla is the concentrated extract of the best and purest ingredients. Medical men everywhere recommend it as the surest and most economical blood medicine in the market.